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Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I join tonight in the celebration of a significant next step in the passage of a \$550 billion, over 5-year infrastructure package, with roads and bridges, highways, sewer systems, broadband, flood mitigation, and coastal resiliency.

If our responsibility as Senators is to listen to the American people, this bill is a product of hearing their voices. It is a bipartisan package, which does not increase taxes but does meet the needs that we have heard of.

Now, first, let me join others. Senators PORTMAN and SINEMA, they just did a fantastic job of leading this effort. Our colleagues, both those here who are speaking but those who are the chairs and ranking members of other committees have really guided us tremendously and produced a great work.

I would also like to acknowledge our House colleagues: BRIAN FITZPATRICK, JOSH GOTTHEIMER, the Problem Solvers Caucus, who on their side of the Chamber have also seen fit to already endorse our effort. And when they did, it was certainly a strong wind of encouragement for us.

But most of all, I thank the American people. The Constitution gives Congress the responsibility for infrastructure. Our duty gives us the responsibility to listen. If you listen to the American people right now, they are concerned about jobs, the economy, safety, and quality of life.

With this bill, we give voice to their concerns. For example, as regards safety, there is \$110 billion for better highways, bridges, and roads. Along the way, by the way, you create quite a number of jobs.

My State—every State—has been affected by flooding. There is \$3.5 billion for flood mitigation; \$500 million to make storm drains bigger, so that if there is a tremendous rain event, systems are better able to hand this.

There is money for sewer systems, money for broadband. Many places in my State do not have high-speed internet. This addresses it in my State and every other.

Quality of life. There are people in my State who, on a Sunday morning, you could drive in 15 minutes to where they are going to work, and on a workday, it takes them an hour and a half. That is 3 hours a day that they are away from their family, 3 hours a day that they are not doing something productive, 3 hours a day of their life which is wasted—times the number of days they work in a year. This will improve their quality of life.

And, by the way, did I mention that it will create a lot of jobs along the way?

So whether it is to benefit the economy, to create better paying jobs, to make people safer, to improve the quality of life, I feel as if we have done it.

Will Rogers said that elected officials are nothing but the hired help. I agree with that. We were sent here to do a

job. This legislation shows that Congress can still work, can still do its job for the American people.

With that, I yield to my colleague from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

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Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President it is an honor to be here. They say that making law is like making sausage. But I have seen sausage made, and it is a prettier process, and it is a lot easier. But this has been a lot more rewarding. I have enjoyed the time we have had together.

My good friend from West Virginia talked about how much money we are spending here, how big this is. But let me note something, underscore something: This is paid for. This is not going to raise taxes on people. This is, instead, taking some money that was already appropriated, not used for COVID relief. We are going to bring that back and use it to help build infrastructure.

This is a bill which is paid for, and it gives the American people something that they desperately need, and that is an upgrade in our infrastructure.

Now, of course, you know it was several months ago that this group came together. We call ourselves affectionately the G-10. Senator PORTMAN and Senator SINEMA have shown enormous patience and persistence and resolve getting this across the finish line. I want to thank also particularly Senator CAPITO for laying out the foundation for what we proposed at the very beginning, which we built upon and has led to the final piece of legislation.

As has been said, neither side got everything we wanted. There are a bunch of things in this bill I don't like, I would take out. There are things in this bill I know my Democratic friends don't like and would take out. But the nature of getting work done in Washington is to be able to come up with something that has enough good for both that we actually get it done. And the American people have been waiting one President after another after another, saying let's improve our infrastructure, and it just doesn't get done. This time, we have.

Now, I know that Republicans had a choice here. We could let the Democrats just do something on their own. With reconciliation, they could have spent trillions of dollars without any of our help. But the President and the leaders of the Democratic Party here and our friends said: No, let's work together and see if we can do something collectively.

Now, I know Members of both parties have mischaracterized our efforts as somehow linked to paving the way to the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion wish list. If you don't think our Democratic friends are going to push for that monstrosity with or without this bill, then I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you. They

are going to push for that anyway. This is a separate piece of legislation. I love this one. I hate that one. These are two very different things, and there is going to be an effort, obviously, to stop that bill from going forward.

This is not perfect. It is paid for.

I want to note as well that if the Democrats would have written the bill entirely on their own, Utah would probably have ended up on the short end of the stick. But because of our involvement in this effort, some of our rural States like mine have been able to have a seat at the table, and that means limiting the spending on bad policy that only benefits the rich coastal cities in the East and the far West. So I am proud of this bill because it benefits Americans across the country.

For decades, elected officials have talked about addressing our Nation's infrastructure. This infrastructure bill turns that talk into reality without raising taxes on hard-working Americans or adding to our debt.

I am proud of my colleagues. It has been fun working with them. It was challenging from time to time, I am sure, to have to listen to me, they would tell you, but I am proud of what we did together, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Now, I would respectfully request that we yield just a minute more to Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

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Mr. PORTMAN. I thank my colleague from Utah for his wise words. Yes, it is true that there was a \$2.65 trillion package proposed by President Biden for infrastructure, and we are at \$550 billion. So it is bipartisan. Both sides made concessions. But it is very different than what we would have seen, and again, it is an alternative with no taxes.

I do want to say that there was another effort underway before we got started. Actually, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO was part of our efforts early on and then decided to try to work with the White House to come up with a proposal. They were not successful in the end of bridging the gap between where the White House was and where they were, and the bipartisan approach that we used here ended up being more successful, but we are building on the foundation that they created. So you will see Senator CAPITO managing this bill for our side. I appreciate her support the other day on our first vote, and I appreciate the hard work they put in to help us to be able to come to this point today.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, I thank my colleagues for their fine speeches, and I very much appreciate them.

Now, the bipartisan group of Senators has finished writing the text of